/24 cont'd/

243 only the second period. If the dry fields are not planted with miscellaneous crops during the first period, they are simply left fallow. But in actuality, even in the Li area, wet rice fields which can be cultivated twice a year, are very few, and those which are held by the Miao are even rarer.

The Miao still do not know the use of the sickle for reaping in harvesting. They gather the stalks by hand, tie them together in sheaves, and then put them into a ho-ts'ang /drying bin/ to be dried by exposure to the wind or by the sun. The rectangular drying bin is built of bamboo with thatch on top and all four sides left open. The floor is made of long planks on which the grain is spread. After it has been thoroughly dried, the grain is moved to a granary, which is also rectangular, is built of wooden boards covered with thatch, and has a raised floor. It is all shut up except for a door on the front side. The grain is neatly stored in the granary and is not taken out until it is needed. The milling process consists of placing the grain into a rectangular wooden mortar in which the grain is pounded with a wooden pestle to remove the husks. /25/ Then the grain is once more put into a wooden mortar to be hulled into rice. The rice mortar is circular just like that used by the Li.

311 The everyday food of the Miao comes almost entirely from till-
241 ing the mountain slopes. Only a very few comparatively wealthy Miao own flat rice fields. Since each piece of hilly land cannot be used continuously for more than two or three years before the soil becomes depleted, it is necessary to stop planting it. For instance, a mountain area planted in this way may be quite large, but it is not difficult to have the total area completely tilled by rotation
● [34] within eight to ten years, and the soil of the whole area must be allowed to recover. At this time then the Miao must seek fresh
166 land in other localities. Therefore, the Miao frequently move once every few years, or at least once in a decade; thus their life is as unsettled as a drifting ship. I have observed this situation with my own eyes during the period of my study.

244 They cultivate very few vegetables, but sugar cane and bananas
245 may be seen occasionally.

4:Mickey E-5 (1940-?) 1947 AE5 Miao AE5

Kweichow is considered the poorest agricultural province in all China. Much of the soil is poor, and the steep, narrow valleys give but little space for farms, which are therefore usually small and cultivated by simple methods. Cultivation is confined chiefly to upland plains, the few open valleys and terraced hillsides, and is dependent upon conditions of soil, slope, and water. The total area of cultivated and cultivable land is estimated at five per cent. At one time the chief crop was opium, but the Chinese Government has tried to stamp out the growing of the poppy. One geographer lists in order of second importance maize and buckwheat, then tobacco, bamboo, wheat, oats, sugar, rice, fruits, indigo, silk, cotton, hemp, beans, and wild silk. Another gives in order of acreage rice, maize, beans, wheat, barley, and millet. In general, it may be said that rice is grown wherever possible and there forms the staple food. In the poorer mountain districts, where rice cannot be grown, the people depend upon maize, barley, and millet. Nowhere is more than one crop of rice grown and the harvest is in September or October. Winter crops commonly include wheat, pulse and oil seeds such as rape. There is a variety of excellent vegetables grown through the year. Fruits of the province include peaches, pears, apricots, persimmons, oranges, and lemons. There are also large crops of walnuts and chestnuts, including a wild variety. The chief trees are the fir, pine, and oak in the east, the t'ung in the west. In spite of rapid cutting, large reserves are thought to remain in Kweichow. The bambo trees are of several species, some suitable for construction and the making of articles of common household use and huge rain hats, others having edible sprouts. Tsunyi in the northern part of the province has industries for the making of a kind of cheap silk cloth and waterproof silk cloth, native umbrellas, and cotton goods. The villages of

311
[134]
245
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/26 cont./

137 The flora varies according to the fertility of the soil.
134 The forested mountains of Farther India are densely covered with vegetation, whereas the highland of Kweichow is described as a barren open, and hilly land, whose soil composition is such that only one-fifth of the country seems to be suitable for human habitation (1). Kengtung is similar in appearance to

1. Von Eickstedt, V, p. 53.

133 Kweichow. The state lies in the extreme eastern part of Burma and borders on Yunnan in the north, on Thailand in the south; on the west it is bounded by the Salween River, on the east by the Mekong. The province of Kengtung, with its capital of the same name, is a mighty plateau, often bare and rocky, which /27/ rises from altitudes of 300 meters in the area of the Salween to altitudes of 3,000 meters between the Salween and the city of Kengtung.

137 Where the area has been inhabited by mountain tribes
[241] for a long time, the lofty forest has disappeared, since the hoe culture with the burning of clearings during the short fallow period prevents the growth of larger trees. The region is therefore completely covered with low, dense bush forest, in which fast-growing types of wood are greatly predominant.

361 It is a very peculiar fact that, as was pointed out, the mountain tribes seem to be bound to a definite altitude and cannot be persuaded to go below a certain altitude limit. This fact is often confirmed in the literature. Lajonquière (1), for

1. II, p. 305.

instance, points out that the Meau select the terrain quite high in the mountain massifs at the foot of rocks as places for their hamlets; Abadie (2) likewise reports similarly. We are

2. Page 158.

[101] indebted to Credner (3) for a more detailed account: "Above

/263 cont./
361 an influential person. Usually, the houses are distributed over the area singly or in pairs." Abadie (2) reports similarly.

2. Page 158.

The villages of the Meau in Thailand always lie along the upper course of headwater streams and are usually named after them. To make clear my findings concerning the manner of settlement and house construction of the Meau I am reproducing [103] (Ill. 108[1] and Fig. 57) a site plan of the village of Nam Fa (Nam = water, brook, in Thai; Fa = name of the brook).

The village lies on a mountain slope dropping off rather steeply from east to west, which changes into merely a gently sloping plain where a kind of village square has formed. The space in front of the chief's house represents the center of the village. Feasts and dances are held here, the villagers meet here, guests from the neighboring villages stop here. The latter [628] [574] are often several days' journey apart; each village therefore represents a self-sufficient community. Nevertheless, during the dry season, visits are made frequently and with pleasure.

All around the village the large trees are cut; it stands [134] on bare loam which, after a heavy rain, turns into a sticky bog in places where it is not steep enough. Behind the houses [241] [351] there are small fields and gardens with all kinds of tubers and vegetables, sugar cane, gourds, bananas, and poppies. They are not fenced in and look more like the adjacent dense primeval forest than like planned gardens.

312 Every village is connected by a water line with a nearby source. The water of the source stream pouring down a steep incline is conducted to a trough by means of halved bamboo poles which rest upon forked posts about two meters high and whose partitioning walls have been removed (Fig. 58). /264/ /Fig. 57 appears here./ /265/

361 712 We did not come across any fortified villages among the Meau in Thailand. They had neither gates nor fences, nor definite entrance signs. /Fig. 58 appears here./

[1] [See cat 116, P707- ANALYST]